Joining of International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor by India

1721. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the recent visit of the British Prime Minister to New Delhi the question of India joining the International Thermounclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) project came up for discussion;

(b) if so, the details of the project and the outcome of the discussions;

(c) whether the European Council has already recognised India's proven scientific capabilities in the area of thermonuclear reactors;

(d) whether India had already fulfilled all conditions for joining the project, including support for the Non-proliferation Treaty; and

(e) the decision taken on Governments' application in the US-EU meet on September 13, 2005?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) to (e) The European Union has supported India's participation in ITER. During the 6th India-EU Summit, the EU led by U.K. Prime Minister Tony Blair reiterated support for India's participation in the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) project. ITER is an international programme that intends to demonstrate the scientific and technological feasibility of fusion energy for peaceful purposes. At present 6 countries i.e. China, EU, Japan, ROK, Russia and the US are partners in the project.

India has expressed its interest in joining the ITER as a full partner on the basis of its advanced scientific and technological base and its established record of R&D in fusion research. India was invited to a meeting of officials on the ITER project at Cadarache in France on September 12, 2005 where it made a presentation. The ITER partners have discussed the possibility of accession by India to ITER. Negotiations on the issue are continuing. Support for Non-proliferation Treaty is not a condition for joining ITER.

Intimidation of Indians in Bangladesh

1722. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a recent incident, wife of India's Deputy Commissioner to Bangladesh was intimated in Dhaka;